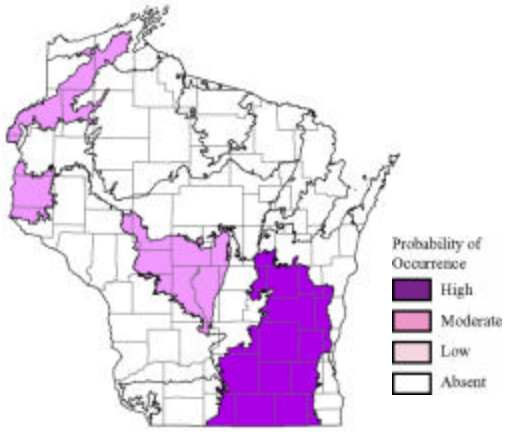
Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*)

Species Assessment Scores*

State rarity:	5
State threats:	3
State population trend:	4
Global abundance:	4
Global distribution:	2
Global threats:	3
Global population trend:	2
Mean Risk Score:	3.3
Area of importance:	2

* Please see the Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries (Section 3.1.1) for definitions of criteria and scores.



Ecological Landscape Associations
Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

Landscape-community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
Central Sand Plains	Emergent marsh
Central Sand Plains	Emergent marsh - wild rice
Central Sand Plains	Submergent marsh
Northwest Sands	Emergent marsh
Northwest Sands	Emergent marsh - wild rice
Northwest Sands	Submergent marsh
Southeast Glacial Plains	Emergent marsh
Southeast Glacial Plains	Emergent marsh - wild rice
Southeast Glacial Plains	Submergent marsh
Western Prairie	Emergent marsh
Western Prairie	Submergent marsh

Threats and Issues

- Red-necked Grebes nest in emergent marshes associated with large lake/wetland complexes. Habitat loss and degradation, and habitat isolation and fragmentation, due to drainage, filling, and lake shore development are the principal threats to this species.
- Artificially high water levels maintained by man-made dams pose a threat to this species' nesting habitat.
- Purple loosestrife may dominate native vegetation and form stands too dense for nesting Red-necked Grebes. Eurasian carp activity is another factor involved in the disappearance of suitable nesting habitat.
- The effects of chemical contamination (dioxin, PCBs) on reproduction is a major concern.
- Great Horned Owl predation has been identified as a mortality factor for Red-necked Grebes.

Priority Conservation Actions

- Initiation of major lake or wetland ecosystem renovation projects where breeding habitat is declining is the most important management action.
- At managed state properties, it will be important to maintain long-term productivity of marshes by mimicking or allowing natural hydrologic regimes and adapting management techniques to localized conditions. Periodic drawdowns will benefit Red-necked Grebes.
- Control of carp and purple loosestrife is an ongoing concern. Removal of loosestrife by uprooting plants, water-level manipulation, biological control (weevils, etc.), mowing, burning, or herbicide applications is recommended.
- At some sites, removal of Great Horned Owls (or mink) known to kill chicks may be essential to maintain or preserve colony productivity.
- Use of artificial nesting platforms may benefit Red-necked Grebes and should be evaulated on a site-by-site basis.
- During the nesting season, water levels must remain stable. Water levels that encourage the stability of emergent patches must be a part of comprehensive management plans.
- Continued monitoring of extant colonies to examine contaminant levels and document long-term population trends is needed.
- At a broader level, efforts to raise awareness about grebe ecology in lake and wetland ecosystems are an ongoing intradepartmental and public concern.